

## Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OIC-02 AF-06

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1395

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG OCON WTO

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY, MADRID, MAY 12

REF: A) GENEVA 1560; B) STATE 51998; C) GENEVA 1757; D) GENEVA 1777

PASS DAVID PARKER, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (USTS)

1. IN TWO HOUR INTERVIEW WITH MISOFF MARCH 13 WTO SYG LONATI REVIEWED HIS POSITION ON SERIES OF KEY ISSUES WHICH WILL ARISE AT FIRST WTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE IN MADRID ON MAY 12. HIS VIEWS ON CHINA AND ARTICLE 42 MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS WERE COVERED IN SEPTELS AND MISSION WILL SEND TEL REVIEWING HIS LUSAKA FORMULA DOCUMENT WHEN LATTER COMPLETED WEEK OF MARCH 17. SYG HAS HAD HELP FROM CCAQ-GENEVA ON LATTER DOCUMENT.

2. OTHER ISSUES ON WHICH LONATI COMMENTED FOLLOW:

A. ELECTION OF SYG: FRENCH SENT SENIOR OFFICER FROM QUAI TO SEE HIM THIS WEEK AFTER HE HAD TOLD FRENCH AMB HERE THAT HE WAS NOT A CANDIDATE FOR SYG POST. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH FRENCH QUAI OFFICIAL LONATI DECIDED TO

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ADMIT HE WAS A CANDIDATE. HIS PURPOSE IN SAYING HE NOT A

CANDIDATE WAS SIMPLY TO AVOID POSSIBLE COMPETITION WITH LDC CANDIDATE WHO MIGHT DEFEAT HIM IN AN ASSEMBLY VOTE. HE NOW CONFIDENT FRENCH WILL THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR HIM. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE LONATI COULD BE ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION IN VIEW OF HIS MORE THAN TWO DECADES LEADERSHIP OF PREDECESSOR IUOTO AND HIS SHEPHERDING NEW WTO INTO EXISTENCE. IT WOULD APPEAR WISE, CONSIDERING LOW CHANCE OF SPRINGING SUCCESSFUL REPLACEMENT FOR HIM AT THIS LATE HOUR, TO JOIN BANDWAGON AND REAP WHATEVER PROFIT THERE MIGHT BE FROM BEING "FOR LONATI BEFORE MADRID."

B. HEADQUARTERS SITE: LONATI INTERESTED ONLY IN WESTERN EUROPEAN SITE NOT ZAGREB OR MEXICO CITY FOR PERMANENT WTO HEADQUARTERS. ASKED IF HE WOULD FIND SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN RECRUITING NEW STAFF (ASSUMING AT LEAST MODEST INCREASES FROM PRESENT STAFF OF 41 ARE VOTED BY ASSEMBLY) IF HE COULD NOT TELL POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE WHERE PERMANENT HEAD-QUARTERS WAS GOING TO BE, HE REPLIED "NO" ADDING THAT ANY MOVE FROM GENEVA WOULD VERY LIKELY RESULT IN A 20 PERCENT LOSS OF EXISTING STAFF AS CERTAIN EMPLOYEES WILL SIMPLY FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DIG UP THEIR ROOTS HERE AND MOVE. HE FEELS SWISS WILL HAVE TO MAKE MORE ATTRACTIVE BUILDING OFFERS TO WTO IF THEY ARE TO RETAIN WTO HERE. HE AWARE AUSTRIA SEEKING UN AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO FILL THEIR NEW UN BUILDING IN VIENNA AND THAT SPAIN PREPARED TO MAKE GOOD QUARTERS AVAILABLE FOR WTO IN MADRID. ASKED IF GENEVA ESSENTIAL FOR WTO CONTACTS WITH UN, OTHER AGENCIES, HE STATED THAT UN AGENCIES AND NGO'S WITH WHICH WTO WORKS MOST CLOSELY ARE: IATA (GENEVA), ICAO (MONTREAL), AND IMCO (LONDON) IN TRANSPORT FIELD; UNESCO (PARIS) IN CULTURAL TOURISM; ILO (GENEVA) IN TECHNICAL TRAINING; WHO (GENEVA) IN HEALTH AND TOURISM; FAO (ROME) IN FOOD AND TOURISM; UNCTAD (GENEVA) IN FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID WTO HAS NEVER HAD OCCASION TO WORK WITH UNIDO (VIENNA).

C. WTO PROGRAM FOR 1976-77: SYG SAID HE WOULD ISSUE SPECIAL ASSEMBLY DOCUMENT LISTING POSSIBLE PROGRAM PRIORITIES FOR PERIOD 1976-77 IN WHICH US SUGGESTIONS WILL FIGURE PROMINENTLY. HE SAID HE ENVISAGED ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHING AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GARDING PRIORITIES FOR 1976-77 PROGRAM. HE INDICATED HE WAS ALREADY GETTING NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON ASSEMBLY AGENDA FOR HIS FAILURE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS NEW WTO PROGRAM. HIS REPLY HAS BEEN THAT DETAILED WORK ON THE NEW PROGRAM WILL HAVE TO BE DONE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AS IT CANNOT POSSIBLY BE WORKED OUT BY THE ASSEMBLY GIVEN THE LOADED AGENDA IT NOW FACES.

D. CONSULTATIONS: FOR ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS IN MADRID, SYG LONATI IS CONFERRING WITH LEON HERRERA, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM; LOPEZ ENARES, UNDERSECRETARY OF THE SAME MINISTRY; AMBASSADOR BENITO, DG OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND AMBASSADOR SOLANO, SPANISH PERM REP, GENEVA. HE SAID THAT BEGINNING WEEK OF MARCH 17 HE WILL BEGIN EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH LDC MISSIONS IN GENEVA TO SEEK THEIR SUPPORT FOR EARLY VOTING OF LUSAKA FORMULA AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIMITATION REGARDING REGULAR BUDGET AT ASSEMBLY; TO GAIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR ENCOURAGING MAJOR WORLD POWERS TO JOIN WTO AND TO RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS TO THE LDC'S IF THEY DO NOT DO SO. HE PROMISED TO KEEP MISSION POSTED ON RESULTS OF HIS LDC CONSULTATIONS.

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